

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following replacement paragraph marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version for the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3, as follows:

--The [[preset]] present invention facilitates efficient assignment of networked resources. In one embodiment of the present invention, a resource assignment method is utilized. The resource assignment method establishes a resource model, acquires an application model, and utilizes a mapping process to map the application model onto the resource model. In one embodiment of the present invention, the resources are assigned to optimize the assignment of resources with respect to application requirements and desired objectives (e.g., minimization of the average communication delay between resources). In one exemplary implementation, the present invention also uses dynamic resource provisioning and automatic application deployment to facilitate shortening the time period to deploy an application. In one embodiment of the present invention a resource assignment method is utilized as part of a resource assignment service (RAS) to assign resources. In one example, a mapping process of a resource assignment method is utilized to map an application onto part of an IDC topology.--